AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Process for separating at least one metal compound and/or a component thereof from a mixture, said process comprising contacting the said mixture with a heteropoly acid or heteropoly acid anion, the heteropoly acid or heteropoly acid anion is anchored to a support material thereby producing a precipitate comprising the heteropoly acid or heteropoly acid anion and the metal compound and/or the component thereof.

2. (original) Process according to claim 1, wherein

- the mixture is purified from the at least one metal compound and/or a component thereof and wherein a purified mixture is recovered; and/or

- the precipitate is recovered from the mixture and the at least one metal compound and/or one or more components thereof are recovered from the precipitate.

3. (currently amended) Process according to claim 23 ~~2~~, wherein the heteropoly acid or heteropoly acid anion is anchored to a support material and wherein the metal compound and/or one or more components thereof is recovered from the support material.

4. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the amount of heteropoly acid or heteropoly acid anion is at least 0.1 equivalent.

5. (original) Process according to claim 4, wherein the amount of heteropoly acid or heteropoly acid anion is at least 1 equivalent.

6. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the said metal compound and/or component thereof consists of at least one metal atom and/or at least one ligand, or at least one metal ion and/or at least one counter ion and/or at least one ligand.

7. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the heteropoly acid or heteropoly acid anion has been attached to an insoluable support material.

8. (original) Process according to claim 7, wherein the support material is selected from the group consisting of insoluble oxides, preferably selected from the group consisting of alumina, silica, zirconia, titania, zinc oxide, magnesium oxide and clay materials, active carbons, zeolites, and combinations thereof.

9. (original) Process according to claim 8, wherein the support is alumina.

10. (original) Process according to claim 7, wherein the support material is selected from the group consisting of organic supports, such as polymers, composites, oligomers and coated materials.

11. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the heteropoly acid and heteropoly acid anion, is selected from the group of Keggin type heteropoly acids and anions.

12. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the metal compound is based on at least one metal from the group consisting of Rh, Ru, Ir, Pd and Pt.

13. (currently amended) Process according to claim 6 ~~any of the claims 6-12~~, wherein at least one of the ligands is selected from the group consisting of organic and inorganic molecules with electron donating properties, preferably from the group consisting of molecules containing one or more unsaturated bonds and the molecules containing one or more heteroatoms, selected from the group consisting of P, S, N and O.

14. (original) Process according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the ligands is selected from the group consisting of phosphines, nitrogen and/or oxygen containing ligands, cyclic dienes, cyclic trienes, CO and H_2O.

15. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the metal compound is derived from the group consisting of precursor complexes $[Rh((R,R)\text{-Me-DuPHOS})(COD)]BF_4$ ((R,R)-Me-DuPHOS = (-)-1,2-bis((2R,5R)-2,5-dimethylphospholano)benzene), $[Ru((R)\text{-BINAP})Cl_2]_2.NEt_3$(R)-BINAP=(R)-(+)-2,2'-bis(diphenylphosphino)-1,1'-binaphtyl, $Pd(OAc)_2$, $Rh(CO)(H)(PPh_3)_3$, and $NiNO_3(H_2O)_6$.

16. (currently amended) Process according to claim 7 ~~any of the claims 7-15~~, wherein the support material is situated in a fixed bed type conformation and the mixture is passed there through, whereby the metal compound is attached to the at least one heteropoly acid or heteropoly acid anion and removed from the said mixture.

17. (original) Process according to claim 16, wherein the support material is present in a structured form.

18. (original) Process according to claim 17, wherein the support material is selected from the group consisting of monoliths, star shaped materials and maze shaped materials.

19. (currently amended) Process according to claim 16 ~~any of the claims 16-18~~, wherein the heteropoly acid or a heteropoly acid anion, or the support modified therewith, is slurried in the said mixture and subsequently removed therefrom.

20. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein the metal compound is a catalyst or a remains thereof.

21. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the metal compound is in a homogeneous phase, preferably dissolved in a solvent or present in a colloidal phase.

22. (original) Process for carrying out a catalysed chemical reaction, said process comprising reacting suitable reactants in a liquid phase in the presence of at least one homogeneous metal catalyst, contacting the resulting reaction mixture after completion of the reaction with a heteropoly acid or heteropoly acid anion, thereby producing a precipitate that is substantially insoluable in the said reaction mixture or with a support material having attached to its surface a heteropoly acid or a heteropoly acid anion and seperating the reaction mixture from the solid material.

23. (new) Process for separating at least one metal compound and/or a component thereof from a mixture containing catalyst and/or catalyst remains from a

homogeneously catalyzed reaction, said process comprising contacting the said mixture with a heteropoly acid or heteropoly acid anion, thereby producing a precipitate comprising the heteropoly acid or heteropoly acid anion and the metal compound and/or the component thereof.